

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1 to 5 (Canceled).

6 (New).        A vertebral body including a native cancellous bone volume that has been altered to comprise a layer of cancellous bone that has been compressed to form a compressed bone region that peripherally defines a cavity and another region of substantially uncompressed cancellous bone occupying at least a portion of the remaining native cancellous bone volume.

7 (New).        A vertebral body according to claim 6  
wherein the compressed bone region comprises a barrier.

8 (New).        A vertebral body according to claim 6  
wherein the compressed bone region comprises a shell.

9 (New).        A vertebral body including a native cancellous bone volume that has been altered to comprise a layer of cancellous bone that has been compressed to form a compressed bone region that peripherally defines a cavity, a bone filling material in the cavity, and another region of substantially uncompressed cancellous bone occupying at least a portion of the remaining native cancellous bone volume.

10 (New).       A vertebral body according to claim 9  
wherein the compressed bone region comprises a barrier substantially inhibiting extravazation of a bone filling material from the cavity.

11 (New).       A vertebral body according to claim 9  
wherein the compressed bone region comprises a shell substantially inhibiting extravazation of a bone filling material from the cavity.

12 (New).       A vertebral body according to claim 10  
wherein the bone filling material comprises bone cement.

13 (New).       A vertebral body according to claim 10  
wherein the bone filling material comprises bone graft material.

14 (New).       A vertebral body according to claim 10  
wherein the bone filling material comprises a stent.

15 (New).       A method for treating a native vertebral body to create a vertebral body as defined in claim 6.

16 (New). A method according to claim 15 further comprising placing a bone filling material into the cavity.

17 (New). A method according to claim 15 comprising inserting a void creating device into the native cancellous bone volume and manipulating the void creating device to compress the first layer of cancellous bone and form the cavity.

18 (New). A method according to claim 17 further comprising placing a bone filling material into the cavity.

19 (New). A method according to claim 15 comprising inserting an expandable void creating device into the native cancellous bone volume and expanding the void creating device to compress the first layer of cancellous bone and form the cavity.

20 (New). A method according to claim 19 further comprising placing a bone filling material into the cavity.